

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (original) A MOSFET gate structure comprising:  
a gate dielectric overlying a substrate;  
a predominantly niobium monoxide gate overlying  
the gate dielectric.
2. (original) The gate structure of claim 1, wherein  
the predominantly niobium monoxide gate has a work function  
between approximately 4.1 eV and 4.4 eV.
3. (original) The gate structure of claim 1, wherein  
the gate dielectric is silicon dioxide.
4. (original) The gate structure of claim 1, wherein  
the gate dielectric comprises a high-k gate dielectric material.
5. (original) The gate structure of claim 4, wherein  
the high-k gate dielectric material comprises  $\text{HfO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  
 $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{HfAlO}$  or  $\text{HfSiO}_4$ .
6. (original) The gate structure of claim 1, further  
comprising a capping layer overlying the niobium monoxide  
gate.
7. (original) The gate structure of claim 6, wherein  
the capping layer is silicon nitride.

8. (original) The gate structure of claim 6, wherein the capping layer is a conductive barrier metal.

9. (currently amended) The gate structure ~~method~~ of claim 8, wherein the conductive barrier metal is TiN.

10-11. canceled

12. (new) A MOSFET gate structure comprising:  
a gate dielectric overlying a substrate;  
a predominantly niobium monoxide gate overlying the gate dielectric; and  
a conductive barrier metal capping layer overlying the niobium monoxide gate.